



Denver

Research Enhancement Award Program

Director: Evelyn A. Hutt, MD

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2008

The goal of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System's REAP to Improve Care Coordination (CRICC) is to provide VA HSR&D with a center devoted to researching the critical problem of poor care coordination for the >200,000 veterans who require support from VA beyond acute hospitalization and outpatient clinic visits. A core faculty of physician and nurse investigators, statisticians, economists and other social scientists are pursuing HSR&D research projects in the areas of (1) quality of life and care for veterans entitled to long-term care (LTC); (2) deploying telemedicine, electronic medical record and patient-centered methods to coordinate chronic disease management across the continuum of care; (3) improving pain management and palliative care across the care continuum. This year's major accomplishments include expanding our core of investigators, ongoing work on two Merit Review projects, funding two local pilot grants, as well as increasing the number of publications produced and services rendered to national, VISN and local VHA. For FY 2009, we will be recruiting a senior level health service researcher with expertise in behavioral and institutional change, submitting three revised Career Development Award Proposals, one revised and two new IIRs, and a Cooperative Studies Proposal.